

Message Text

PAGE 01 SEOUL 06559 272257Z

20

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6559

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT KS JA

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT'S MOVE AGAINST PROMINENT OPPOSITION
ASSEMBLYMAN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. DURING A CONVERSATION WITH KIM CHONG YOM, PRESIDENTIAL SECRETARY GENERAL, THE QUESTION OF GOVERNMENT PARTY MOVES IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO EXPEL NDP ASSEMBLYMAN CHONG IL-HYONG AROSE. ON THE FLOOR OF THE ASSEMBLY CHONG ACCUSED ROK/CIA OF KIDNAPPING KIM TAE CHUNG (REF: SEOUL 6531). KIM SAID CHONG'S CHARGE OF GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT COULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO STAND UNLESS HE COULD PRODUCE EVIDENCE. HIS ACTION WAS AGAINST THE RULES OF THE ASSEMBLY AND MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT PARTY WERE CALLING FOR HIS EXPULSION.

2. I SAID TO TAKE PUNITIVE ACTION AGAINST CHONG WOULD ADD FUEL TO THE ALREADY OVERHEATED CRITICISM OF RECENT GOVERNMENT ACTIONS. IT WOULD BE VIEWED AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF THE STIFLING OF DISSENT. I POINTED OUT THAT CHONG WAS WIDELY KNOWN IN INTERNATIONAL CIRCLES AND MEASURES AGAINST HIM WOULD CAUSE COMMENTS ADVERSE TO ROKG. I ADDED THAT IN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES AND WITH ALL THE OTHER THINGS THAT
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HAD GONE ON RECENTLY I WOULD THINK THE GOVERNMENT WOULD WANT TO EXERT A MODERATING INFLUENCE IN GIVING GUIDANCE TO ITS PARTY. KIM SAID

HE UNDERSTOOD MY CONCERN AND WOULD DISCUSS THE
MATTER WITH PRESIDENT PARK.

3. COMMENT: FROM WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED SO FAR, EVEN
THE NORMALLY SUBDUED OPPOSITION IS SOMEWHAT EXERCISED
OVER THE GOVERNMENT'S POLITICAL VINDICTIVENESS IN THE
CHONG CASE AND IS SHOWING UNUSUAL SIGNS OF RESISTANCE.
TO HAVE THIS COME ON TOP OF THE KIM TAE CHUNG CASE
AND THE REV. PARK CASE WOULD UNNECESSARILY ADD TO THE
EXISTING SITUATION IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT IS LOOKED
UPON AS INCREASINGLY REPRESSIVE BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE
OF KOREA, TO THE DETRIMENT OF OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS.
HABIB

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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